

Lemuel Hutchings to Andrew Jackson, January 15, 1809, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

JOHN SEVIER TO JACKSON.

Knoxville, January 12, 1809.

Sir. The president of the United States by virtue of an act of Congress passed on the 30th day of March 1808. entitled "an act, authorising a detachment from the Militia of the United States," have requested the executive of the State of Tennes'see, to take effectual Measures to organize arm and equip according to law, and hold in readiness to March at a moments warning, our respective proportion of one hundred thousand Militia. This therefore is to require of you, to take early and effectual Measures within the shortest period that circumstances will permit, for having the Quota ready to march on the shortest notice, which have already been called for in a former order from the Executive as the proportion of your Division, and as nearly as practicable in the following proportions of Artillery, cavalry, Riflemen and infantry. (Viz) one twelfth artillery, one sixteenth Cavalry, and from one sixteenth, to one twelfth riflemen, and the residue Infantry; to be compleatly equiped with arms and accoutrements, fit for actual service, including blankets and knapsacks.

Any corps of volunteers who previous to orders for taking the field, who may tender their services according to the second section of the aforesaid act, will be considered as part of the Quota of said division, according to their Numbers. And you are also authorised to accept as a part thereof, any company, or companies, of volunteers, either of artillery, cavalry, or Infantry, who may associate and offer themselves for the service, agreeably to an act of Congress (a copy of which is enclosed) passed "on the 24th of February 1807."

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And I have to request you will endeavor to encourage as general a disposition as possible, for volunteer offers of service, especially under the last Mentioned act.

Permit me to suggest the propriety and importance, of having such field officers, Captains, and subalterns selected, as can in all respects be relied upon, in case the detachment should be called into actual service. When the Detachment and Organization shall have been compleated, the respective corps will be exorcised under the officers set over them, but will not remain embodied, or considered in actual service, until by subsequent orders they shall be directed to take the field.

You will please direct correct returns to be made of the corps to be raised in your Division, and that Copies thereof, be immeadiately transmitted to this department. Seperate returns should be made of those who have heretofore volunteered, and of those who may volunteer under the last mentioned act.

Permit me to observe that Brigadier General James Winchester, is appointed to take command of the whole troops to be raised for the service aforesaid, and you will please correspond with that officer, on any incidel occurrences that may be necessary on the Occasion.

When the Executive takes into view the constant and invariable conduct of the General Government of friendship, honest Neutrality, and the accommodating measures manifested towards the Belligerent powers since they have been engaged in War, seemingly for the designed purpose of desolation and distruction of each other; he is inspired with full confidence, that his fellow Citizens will on the present Occasion demonstrate to the World that they will not tamely submit to the insults and aggressions unmeritted by the Government of their Country, to no tyranical Nation of people whatever: That they will recollect that the Americans have not trespassed upon, or violated the rights of any neighboring or foreign Nation, that in all cases, the United States, have been un-offending towards those Waring persons, who have been for a length of time,

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wantonly sporting with the lives, liberties, and properties of the American people. The Governor flatters himself, that his fellow Citizens will on the present occasion, exhibit to the world a spirit of patriotism and Military Ardor, that cannot be exceeded, and evince to the nations of the earth, that if invaded by any of the Marauding despots of Europe, that the infamous feet of their enslaved Armies, shall not dare to tread the Ground of our peaceful shores. It is regretted that a number of reasons have induced the Executive to postpone so long issuing the present orders. Among those reasons are, that some hundreds of families have lately settled in our State, and I need not remark they are in want of almost every substantial necessary for their subsistence, and will require all the time they can be indulged with, to provide for their families to support upon, in their absence. The extreme intensity of the Winter has been another formidable impediment, and many other precarious circumstances could be named were it necessary. It would have been extremely difficult under these embarrassments, to have Organized completely the troops, before a more moderate season approached.

It is also to be observed, that there is no appropriation for supplying with blankets, Knapsacks, tents, or any contingency whatever. Some of those articles are indispensable in the time of such an inclement season, and soldiers cannot take the field without them: The infancy of our state will sufficiently apologize, as it cannot be presumed our troops can so immediately be provided for a Campaign, as those in the Original States. Also our local situation is such, as will occasion our troops a long march, let the scene of action be where it may. The foregoing considerations have had much weight with the Executive, who have considered the present as the most fit and favorable time, for carrying the same into prompt and complete success, relying with unbounded confidence, in the patriotism and unshaken fidelity of his fellow Citizens, that they will as usually heretofore, rally round the standard of their Country, with all that active alertness, that is becoming a brave and independent people, and be in perfect readiness to obey any request they may receive from the Government of their Country.

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I have the honor to be sir.